

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01306 300014Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-06

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R 292228Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3378
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1306

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BM, KS, KN
SUBJECT: BURMA'S AMBASSADOR U MAUNG MAUNG GYEE COMMENTS
ON KOREA QUESTION

1. SUMMARY: BURMA'S NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN,
AMBASSADOR U MAUNG MAUNG GYEE, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT PEKING
AND MOSCOW ARE ENCOURAGING PYONGYANG TO HEAT UP THE KOREAN
ISSUE AT THE UN. GYEE SEEMS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT UNGA
DEBATE ON KOREA AGAIN CAN BE AVOIDED IN 1977. END SUMMARY.

2. U GYEE HAS COMMENTED TO MISOFF ON KOREAN QUESTION. GYEE
WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM EARLY
1975 UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO UN IN LATE 1976. HE ARRIVED
IN NEW YORK EARLY THIS YEAR.

3. GYEE NOTED THAT IN HIS PRIOR CAPACITY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY
HE HAD BECOME QUITE CONVERSANT WITH KOREAN QUESTION AT UN.
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GYEE RECALLED MANY DEMARCHES ON SUBJECT BY US AND ROK
REPRESENTATIVES.

4. GYEE IS OF OPINION THAT NEITHER PEKING NOR MOSCOW IS
ENCOURAGING PYONGYANG TO HEAT UP ISSUE. GYEE APPLAUDED
PROSPECT OF US TROOP WITHDRAWAL. GYEE SAID HE HAD VISITED
ROK LAST YEAR AND HAD BEEN MUCH IMPRESSED WITH SOUTH'S

STRENGTH. HE BELIEVED THAT ROK ALONE COULD MORE THAN DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST NORTH AND DID NOT THINK THAT NORTH WITHOUT CHINESE OR SOVIET ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD VENTURE TO TAKE ON SOUTH. GYEE CONSIDERED THAT POSSIBILITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH KOREAS SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT. HE NOTED THE GERMAN PRECEDENT AND BELIEVED THAT UNDER RIGHT CONDITIONS NORTH KOREA MIGHT AGREE TO UN MEMBERSHIP.

5. COMMENT: GYEE, A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHOSE PREVIOUS POSTS HAVE INCLUDED PARIS, WASHINGTON, TOKYO, AND PEKING, EMPHASIZED THAT ECONOMICS ARE HIS SPECIAL BAG. HE SHOULD PROVE A FAR MORE ACTIVE REPRESENTATIVE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR U MYINT MAUNG, WHO DEPARTED NEW YORK LAST FALL TO BECOME AMBASSADOR IN PEKING.

6. IN 1975 BURMA ABSTAINED ON THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA BUT SUPPORTED THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION. GYEE SUGGESTED THAT RANGOON REACHED THAT DECISION ONLY AFTER LENGTHY CONSIDERATION. HIS COMMENTS INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MORE FAVORABLE FUTURE POSTURE SHOULD A SIMILAR SITUATION ARISE AGAIN. ADDITIONALLY, GYEE MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE AVOIDANCE OF UNGA DEBATE ON KOREA IN 1976. HE SEEMED REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SAME MIGHT HOLD TRUE IN 1977.
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